

The Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating comprising the following steps:
detecting when a first network identification code associated with a first mobile ~~device~~
station has changed;

sending a first message via a wireless network to a first service gateway for
forwarding by the first service gateway to a second mobile station wherein the first
message comprises the first network identification code;

receiving from a second service gateway via the wireless network a second
~~forwarded~~ message that was sent by the second mobile station wherein the second
message comprises a second network identification code that is associated with the
second mobile station;

wherein a message type for the first and second messages is selected from a
group comprising an email message, a SMS message and a HTTP message, and
wherein the message type for the second message is the same as the message type
for the first message;

storing the second network identification code; and

requesting a communication link between the first mobile station and the second
mobile station via the wireless network using the second network identification code
wherein the communication link does not traverse the first or second service gateway.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the first service gateway is
the same physical device as the second service gateway.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first service gateway and the
second service gateway comprise an email gateway.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the first message and the second message comprise email messages.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first service gateway and the second service gateway comprise a short messaging service center (SMSC).
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the first message and the second message comprise short messaging service (SMS) messages.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first service gateway and the second service gateway comprise an internet gateway.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the internet gateway provides a connection to an IP address service.
9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the first message and the second message comprise HTTP packets.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the first mobile station queries the IP address service to determine the IP address for another mobile station.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the IP address service notifies the first mobile station when the IP address for another mobile station has changed.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first service gateway is selected from a group comprising an email gateway, a SMSC, a SMSC with an IP address exchange service, and an Internet gateway with an IP address service.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the second service gateway is selected from a group comprising an email gateway, a SMSC, a SMSC with an IP address exchange service, and an Internet gateway with an IP address service.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the second service gateway is the same type of service gateway as the first service gateway.
15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the second service gateway is a different type of service gateway than the first service gateway.
16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first mobile station selects as the first service gateway a service gateway from a group comprising an email gateway, a SMSC, a SMSC with an IP address exchange service, and an Internet gateway with an IP address service.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the first mobile station selects one service gateway type for sending the first identification code to the second mobile station and selects a different service gateway type for sending the first identification code to a third mobile station.
18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the first mobile station selects a first service gateway type for sending the first identification code to the second mobile station and selects a different service gateway type for re-sending the first identification code to the second mobile station.
19. (Cancel)
20. (Cancel)
21. (Cancel)
22. (Cancel)
23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the first mobile station selects the message type for the first message ~~from a group comprising an email message, a SMS message, and a HTTP message.~~

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the first mobile station selects one message type for sending the first identification code to the second mobile station and selects a different message type for sending the first identification code to a third mobile station.
25. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the first mobile station selects a first message type for sending the first identification code to the second mobile station and selects a different message type for re-sending the first identification code to the second mobile station.
26. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first network identification code and the second network identification code comprise IP addresses assigned by the wireless network.
27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the first mobile station comprises an IP-monitoring agent for detecting when the IP address of the first mobile station changes.
28. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein the IP-monitoring agent sends the first message after it detects that the IP address of the first mobile station has changed.

29. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first message is sent in response to a command by the user of first mobile device to send the first message.
30. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first message further comprises status information, location information, or both status and location information.
31. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the second mobile station is registered as an associate of the first mobile station.
32. (Original) The method of claim 31 wherein the registration of the second mobile station is recorded in a mapping table.
33. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein the registration of the second mobile station is recorded in a mapping table that resides in the first mobile station.
34. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein the registration of the second mobile station is recorded in a mapping table that is external to the first mobile station.
35. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein the mapping table comprises email addresses of associates of the first mobile station.

36. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein the mapping table comprises SMS addresses of associates of the first mobile station.
37. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of sending a response message to the second mobile station in response to receiving the second message.
38. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication link is a peer-to-peer communication link.
39. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication link provides a communication channel for an instant messaging conversation.
40. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication link provides a communication channel for a web server to provide web pages for information exchange.

Claims 41 – 95 (Cancelled)

96. (New) A method of operating comprising the following steps:
- detecting when a first network identification code associated with a first mobile station has changed;
 - sending a first message via a wireless network to a first service gateway for forwarding by the first service gateway to a second mobile station wherein the first message comprises the first network identification code;
 - receiving from a second service gateway via the wireless network a second message that was sent by the second mobile station wherein the second message comprises a second network identification code that is associated with the second mobile station;
 - wherein a message type for the first and second messages is selected from a group comprising an email message, a SMS message and a HTTP message, and wherein the message type for the second message is different from the message type for the first message;
 - storing the second network identification code; and
 - requesting a communication link between the first mobile station and the second mobile station via the wireless network using the second network identification code wherein the communication link does not traverse the first or second service gateway.
97. (New) The method of claim 96, wherein the first service gateway is the same physical device as the second service gateway.
98. (New) The method of claim 97, wherein the first and second service gateways comprise an email gateway, an SMS gateway or an Internet gateway.
99. (New) The method of claim 96, wherein at least one of the first or second service gateways is an Internet gateway.

100. (New) The method of claim 99, wherein the first network identification code and the second network identification code comprise IP addresses assigned by the wireless network.

101. (New) The method of claim 100, wherein the first mobile station comprises an IP-monitoring agent for detecting when the IP address of the first mobile station changes.

102. (New) The method of claim 96, wherein the first message further comprises status information, location information, or both status and location information.

103. (New) The method of claim 96, wherein the second mobile station is registered as an associate of the first mobile station.

104. (New) The method of claim 103, wherein the registration of the second mobile station is recorded in a mapping table residing either internally or externally to the first mobile station.

105. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein the mapping table comprises email addresses or SMS addresses of associates of the first mobile station.

106. (New) The method of claim 96, wherein the communication link is a peer-to-peer communication link, an instant messaging communication link, or a communication channel for a web server to provide web pages for information exchange.

107. (New) A method of operating comprising the following steps:
detecting when a first network identification code associated with a first mobile station has changed;
sending a first message via a wireless network to a first service gateway for forwarding by the first service gateway to a second mobile station wherein the first

message comprises the first network identification code;

wherein the first mobile station selects as the first service gateway a service gateway from a group comprising an email gateway, a SMSC, a SMSC with an IP address exchange service, and an Internet gateway with an IP address service, the first mobile station selecting one service gateway type for sending the first identification code to the second mobile station and selecting a different service gateway type for sending the first identification code to a third mobile station;

receiving from a second service gateway via the wireless network a second message that was sent by the second mobile station wherein the second message comprises a second network identification code that is associated with the second mobile station;

storing the second network identification code; and

requesting a communication link between the first mobile station and the second mobile station via the wireless network using the second network identification code wherein the communication link does not traverse the first or second service gateway.

108. (New) The method of claim 107, wherein a message type for the first and second messages is selected from a group comprising an email message, a SMS message and a HTTP message, and wherein the message type for the second message is the same as the message type for the first message.

109. (New) The method of claim 107, wherein the first service gateway is the same physical device as the second service gateway.

110. (New) The method of claim 107, wherein at least one of the first or second service gateways is an Internet gateway.

111. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein the first network identification code and the second network identification code comprise IP addresses assigned by the wireless

network.

112. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein the first mobile station comprises an IP-monitoring agent for detecting when the IP address of the first mobile station changes.

113. (New) The method of claim 107, wherein the first message further comprises status information, location information, or both status and location information.

114. (New) The method of claim 107, wherein the second mobile station is registered as an associate of the first mobile station.

115. (New) The method of claim 114, wherein the registration of the second mobile station is recorded in a mapping table residing either internally or externally to the first mobile station.

116. (New) The method of claim 115, wherein the mapping table comprises email addresses or SMS addresses of associates of the first mobile station.

117. (New) The method of claim 107, wherein the communication link is a peer-to-peer communication link, an instant messaging communication link, or a communication channel for a web server to provide web pages for information exchange.

118. (New) A method of operating comprising the following steps:
detecting when a first network identification code associated with a first mobile station has changed;
sending a first message via a wireless network to a first service gateway for forwarding by the first service gateway to a second mobile station wherein the first message comprises the first network identification code;

wherein the first mobile station selects as the first service gateway a service gateway from a group comprising an email gateway, a SMSC, a SMSC with an IP address exchange service, and an Internet gateway with an IP address service, the first mobile station selecting a first service gateway type for sending the first identification code to the second mobile station and selecting a different service gateway type for re-sending the first identification code to the second mobile station;

receiving from a second service gateway via the wireless network a second message that was sent by the second mobile station wherein the second message comprises a second network identification code that is associated with the second mobile station;

storing the second network identification code; and

requesting a communication link between the first mobile station and the second mobile station via the wireless network using the second network identification code wherein the communication link does not traverse the first or second service gateway.

119. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein a message type for the first and second messages is selected from a group comprising an email message, a SMS message and a HTTP message, and wherein the message type for the second message is the same as the message type for the first message.

120. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein the first service gateway is the same physical device as the second service gateway.

121. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein at least one of the first or second service gateways is an Internet gateway.

122. (New) The method of claim 121, wherein the first network identification code and the second network identification code comprise IP addresses assigned by the wireless network.

123. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein the first mobile station comprises an IP-monitoring agent for detecting when the IP address of the first mobile station changes.

124. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein the first message further comprises status information, location information, or both status and location information.

125. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein the second mobile station is registered as an associate of the first mobile station.

126. (New) The method of claim 125, wherein the registration of the second mobile station is recorded in a mapping table residing either internally or externally to the first mobile station.

127. (New) The method of claim 126, wherein the mapping table comprises email addresses or SMS addresses of associates of the first mobile station.

128. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein the communication link is a peer-to-peer communication link, an instant messaging communication link, or a communication channel for a web server to provide web pages for information exchange.

129. (New) A method of operating comprising the following steps:
detecting when a first network identification code associated with a first mobile station has changed;
sending a first message via a wireless network to a first service gateway for forwarding by the first service gateway to a second mobile station wherein the first message comprises the first network identification code;
wherein the first mobile station selects a message type for the first message

from a group comprising an email message, a SMS message, and a HTTP message, for sending the first identification code to the second mobile station and selects a different message type for sending the first identification code to a third mobile station;

receiving from a second service gateway via the wireless network a second message that was sent by the second mobile station wherein the second message comprises a second network identification code that is associated with the second mobile station;

storing the second network identification code; and
requesting a communication link between the first mobile station and the second mobile station via the wireless network using the second network identification code wherein the communication link does not traverse the first or second service gateway.

130. (New) The method of claim 129, wherein a message type for the first and second messages is selected from a group comprising an email message, a SMS message and a HTTP message, and wherein the message type for the second message is the same as the message type for the first message.

131. (New) The method of claim 129, wherein the first service gateway is the same physical device as the second service gateway.

132. (New) The method of claim 129, wherein at least one of the first or second service gateways is an Internet gateway.

133. (New) The method of claim 132, wherein the first network identification code and the second network identification code comprise IP addresses assigned by the wireless network.

134. (New) The method of claim 133, wherein the first mobile station comprises an IP-monitoring agent for detecting when the IP address of the first mobile station changes.

135. (New) The method of claim 129, wherein the first message further comprises status information, location information, or both status and location information.

136. (New) The method of claim 129, wherein the second mobile station is registered as an associate of the first mobile station.

137. (New) The method of claim 136, wherein the registration of the second mobile station is recorded in a mapping table residing either internally or externally to the first mobile station.

138. (New) The method of claim 137, wherein the mapping table comprises email addresses or SMS addresses of associates of the first mobile station.

139. (New) The method of claim 129, wherein the communication link is a peer-to-peer communication link, an instant messaging communication link, or a communication channel for a web server to provide web pages for information exchange.

140. (New) A method of operating comprising the following steps:
detecting when a first network identification code associated with a first mobile station has changed;

 sending a first message via a wireless network to a first service gateway for forwarding by the first service gateway to a second mobile station wherein the first message comprises the first network identification code;

wherein the first mobile station selects a message type for the first message from a group comprising an email message, a SMS message, and a HTTP message, for sending the first identification code to the second mobile station and selects a

different message type for re-sending the first identification code to the second mobile station;

receiving from a second service gateway via the wireless network a second message that was sent by the second mobile station wherein the second message comprises a second network identification code that is associated with the second mobile station;

storing the second network identification code; and
requesting a communication link between the first mobile station and the second mobile station via the wireless network using the second network identification code wherein the communication link does not traverse the first or second service gateway.

141. (New) The method of claim 140, wherein a message type for the first and second messages is selected from a group comprising an email message, a SMS message and a HTTP message, and wherein the message type for the second message is the same as the message type for the first message.

142. (New) The method of claim 140, wherein the first service gateway is the same physical device as the second service gateway.

143. (New) The method of claim 140, wherein at least one of the first or second service gateways is an Internet gateway.

144. (New) The method of claim 143, wherein the first network identification code and the second network identification code comprise IP addresses assigned by the wireless network.

145. (New) The method of claim 144, wherein the first mobile station comprises an IP-monitoring agent for detecting when the IP address of the first mobile station changes.

146. (New) The method of claim 140, wherein the first message further comprises status information, location information, or both status and location information.

147. (New) The method of claim 140, wherein the second mobile station is registered as an associate of the first mobile station.

148. (New) The method of claim 147, wherein the registration of the second mobile station is recorded in a mapping table residing either internally or externally to the first mobile station.

149. (New) The method of claim 148, wherein the mapping table comprises email addresses or SMS addresses of associates of the first mobile station.

150. (New) The method of claim 140, wherein the communication link is a peer-to-peer communication link, an instant messaging communication link, or a communication channel for a web server to provide web pages for information exchange.

151. (New) A method of operating comprising the following steps:
detecting when a first network identification code associated with a first mobile device has changed;

 sending a first message via a wireless network to a first service gateway for forwarding by the first service gateway to a second mobile station wherein the first message comprises the first network identification code;

wherein the second mobile station is registered as an associate of the first mobile station, and wherein the registration of the second mobile station is recorded in a mapping table that resides in the first mobile station;

 receiving from a second service gateway via the wireless network a second message that was sent by the second mobile station wherein the second message

comprises a second network identification code that is associated with the second mobile station;

storing the second network identification code; and

requesting a communication link between the first mobile station and the second mobile station via the wireless network using the second network identification code wherein the communication link does not traverse the first or second service gateway.

152. (New) The method of claim 151, wherein a message type for the first and second messages is selected from a group comprising an email message, a SMS message and a HTTP message, and wherein the message type for the second message is the same as the message type for the first message.

153. (New) The method of claim 151, wherein the first service gateway is the same physical device as the second service gateway.

154. (New) The method of claim 151, wherein at least one of the first or second service gateways is an Internet gateway.

155. (New) The method of claim 154, wherein the first network identification code and the second network identification code comprise IP addresses assigned by the wireless network.

156. (New) The method of claim 154, wherein the first mobile station comprises an IP-monitoring agent for detecting when the IP address of the first mobile station changes.

157. (New) The method of claim 151, wherein the first message further comprises status information, location information, or both status and location information.

158. (New) The method of claim 151, wherein the communication link is a peer-to-

peer communication link, an instant messaging communication link, or a communication channel for a web server to provide web pages for information exchange.

159. (New) A method of operating comprising the following steps:

detecting when a first network identification code associated with a first mobile device has changed;

sending a first message via a wireless network to a first service gateway for forwarding by the first service gateway to a second mobile station wherein the first message comprises the first network identification code;

wherein the second mobile station is registered as an associate of the first mobile station, and wherein the registration of the second mobile station is recorded in a mapping table that is external to the first mobile station;

receiving from a second service gateway via the wireless network a second message that was sent by the second mobile station wherein the second message comprises a second network identification code that is associated with the second mobile station;

storing the second network identification code; and
requesting a communication link between the first mobile station and the second mobile station via the wireless network using the second network identification code wherein the communication link does not traverse the first or second service gateway.

160. (New) The method of claim 159, wherein a message type for the first and second messages is selected from a group comprising an email message, a SMS message and a HTTP message, and wherein the message type for the second message is the same as the message type for the first message.

161. (New) The method of claim 159, wherein the first service gateway is the same physical device as the second service gateway.

162. (New) The method of claim 159, wherein at least one of the first or second service gateways is an Internet gateway.

163. (New) The method of claim 162, wherein the first network identification code and the second network identification code comprise IP addresses assigned by the wireless network.

164. (New) The method of claim 162, wherein the first mobile station comprises an IP-monitoring agent for detecting when the IP address of the first mobile station changes.

165. (New) The method of claim 159, wherein the first message further comprises status information, location information, or both status and location information.

166. (New) The method of claim 159, wherein the communication link is a peer-to-peer communication link, an instant messaging communication link, or a communication channel for a web server to provide web pages for information exchange.

167. (New) A method of operating comprising the following steps:
detecting when a first network identification code associated with a first mobile device has changed;

 sending a first message via a wireless network to a first service gateway for forwarding by the first service gateway to a second mobile station wherein the first message comprises the first network identification code;

wherein the second mobile station is registered as an associate of the first mobile station, and wherein the registration of the second mobile station is recorded in a mapping table comprising email addresses or SMS addresses of associates of the first mobile station;

receiving from a second service gateway via the wireless network a second message that was sent by the second mobile station wherein the second message comprises a second network identification code that is associated with the second mobile station;

storing the second network identification code; and
requesting a communication link between the first mobile station and the second mobile station via the wireless network using the second network identification code wherein the communication link does not traverse the first or second service gateway.

168. (New) The method of claim 167, wherein a message type for the first and second messages is selected from a group comprising an email message, a SMS message and a HTTP message, and wherein the message type for the second message is the same as the message type for the first message.

169. (New) The method of claim 167, wherein the first service gateway is the same physical device as the second service gateway.

170. (New) The method of claim 167, wherein at least one of the first or second service gateways is an Internet gateway.

171. (New) The method of claim 170, wherein the first network identification code and the second network identification code comprise IP addresses assigned by the wireless network.

172. (New) The method of claim 170, wherein the first mobile station comprises an IP-monitoring agent for detecting when the IP address of the first mobile station changes.

173. (New) The method of claim 167, wherein the first message further comprises status information, location information, or both status and location information.

174. (New) The method of claim 167, wherein the communication link is a peer-to-peer communication link, an instant messaging communication link, or a communication channel for a web server to provide web pages for information exchange.